

File No.: A.I.M. 5.7.02.01/2

Tel.No.: 22 405526

Nicosia, March 17, 2020

Beatriz Balbin

Chief

Special Procedures Branch

OHCHR

[vaw@ochchr.org](mailto:vaw@ochchr.org)

**Object: Letter from the Special Rapporteur on violence against  
women, its causes and consequences**

With regards to the above object, please find attached the contribution of my Office, concerning the preparation of the Special Rapporteur's thematic report pursuant resolution 72/175.

I remain at your disposal for any further information.



Maria Stylianou-Lottides

Commissioner for Administration and  
Human Rights Protection  
CYPRUS

ND

## Violence against women, its causes and consequences

- 1. Please indicate whether there are cases of gender based violence and harassment against women journalists in your country (Cyprus). If so, please specify how these cases are documented and describe the State response, or lack thereof, to such cases, including examples of good practice.***

Even though our Office receives and investigates complaints which concern gender-based violence and harassment in the workplace, we have not yet received such a complaint from (or behalf of) women journalists.

We are also not aware of any other cases of gender-based violence and harassment against women journalists.

- 2. Please indicate whether your country has early-warning and rapid-response systems in place, such as hotlines, online platforms or 24-hour emergency contact points to ensure that journalists and other media actors have immediate access to protective measures when they are under threat.***

We are not aware of such systems. However, relevant incidents can be reported to the Police.

- 3. Please specify whether there are any programs in place aimed at addressing factors that increase the likelihood of violence and harassment in the world of work for women journalists, including discrimination, the abuse of power relations, and gender, cultural and social norms that support violence and harassment.***

Our Office has no knowledge of any such programs.

- 4. Please specify whether online and ICT-facilitated violence against women is recognized as a crime, particularly cases of killings, threats of rape and harassment of women journalists.**

Cyprus ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul convention on 10 November 2017 with Law 14(111)2017. Two related laws, one on the criminalisation of violence against women and a second on the criminalisation of harassment and stalking of women, are pending before Parliament. However, no explicit reference to crimes against women journalist is included.

- 5. Please indicate whether transparent complaint mechanisms for cases of offline and online and ICT-facilitated violence against women journalists have been adopted, and if so, whether policies and procedures for reporting and requesting the removal of harmful content are available and easily accessible.**

No such mechanisms exist. Women journalists may use the mainstream mechanisms for reporting offline and online and ICT-facilitated violence, namely the Police Office for Combatting Cybercrime and the Police Office for Combating Discrimination.

- 6. Please indicate what challenges are faced by women journalists when reporting on cases of gender based violence, and specify whether there are any good practices in this regard.**

The challenges that are faced by women journalists when reporting on cases of gender-based violence, are the same challenges that are faced by all women who face such violence in their work environment. Mainly: the structural inequality between women and men, but also prejudices and sexist perceptions and stereotypes.

As a result of these challenges, gender-based violence often remains unseen, unreported and unpunished.